

REMARKRegarding the drawing Objections:

The objected drawings are obviated by the above Claim Amendments. The "scale (48)" has canceled in the amended claims

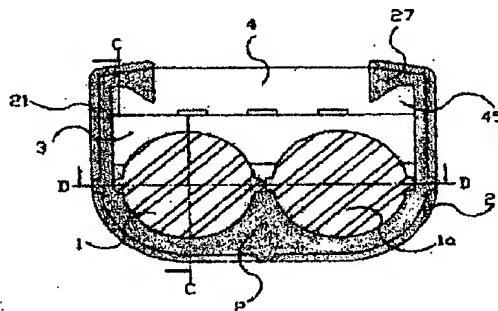
Regarding the Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a):

The ground rejection of claims 23 to 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) in view of Kunoki (U. S. Patent No. 5,127,763), and claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Kunoki, in further view of Harris (U. S. Patent No. 3,701,555) are null and void by the above claim amendment.

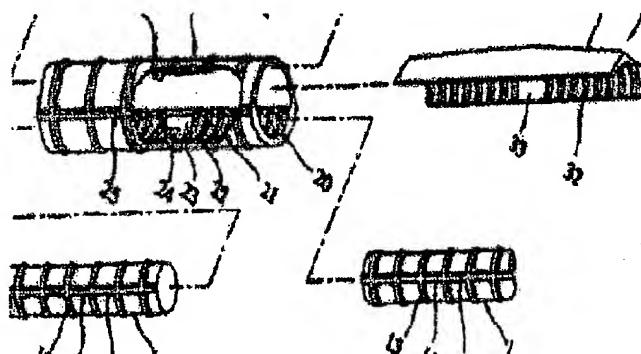
The ground rejection of claims 29, 30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris (U. S. Patent No. 3,701,555) in view of Kunoki (U. S. Patent No. 5,127,763), and claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris in view of Kunoki, in further view of Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) are also null and void by the above claim amendment.

However, it must note that the major components of the present invention comprising (a) a base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer U shaped container and an inner W shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23), which is formed a plurality of semi-annular grooves (26) with same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), (b) a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming an M shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface, which is formed a plurality of semi-annular grooves (26) with same patterns of the

semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) and a flat top surface (33) at opposite upper surface, and (c) a wedge (4, 4b) having gradually decreasing thickness along with the axial direction, and a pair of locking sections (45) along with both edges (46) for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bar (1, 1a) (See the Figure below).



The major components of the cited reference, Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) are that (a) a cylindrical sleeve (2) having a cross sectional area sufficient to accommodate two reinforcing bars (1) inserted through both end openings, (b) an intermediate pad (3) forming a semi-circular uneven inner-surface on one-side for mating with said reinforcing bars (1), and a narrow flat surface on opposite-side, and (c) a wedge element (4) for inserting to the gap through end openings, at least one side of the wedge element (4) tapered to frictional contact with the intermediate pad (3) and the cylindrical sleeve (2) (See the Figure below)

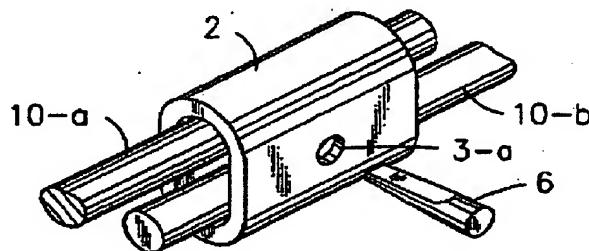


As comparing the cited reference to the instant invention, the difference is that: Kim

(U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) has a cylindrical sleeve (2) having an ellipse cross-sectional area for inserting the bars, intermediate pad (3) and the wedge element (4).

On the contrary, the present invention has the base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer U shaped container with a flat bottom surface, two flat lateral surface and two rounded corners between the bottom and lateral surfaces and an inner U shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23) and a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming an M shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface and a flat top surface.

Kunoki (U. S. Patent No. 5,127,763) teaches a clip joint for connecting reinforcing bars comprising a main body of oblong configuration formed a plurality of projections or teeth (4) and a through bore (3-a) for inserting a wedge member (Fig. 7), which is inserted into the through bore (3-a). So that, the wedge member (Fig. 7) is disposed in normal direction with respect to the longitudinal direction of the reinforcing bars. Kunoki fails to teach the sleeves the base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer U shaped container and an inner U shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23) and a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming an M shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface and a flat top surface and a wedge for locking the sleeve of the instant invention.



Harris (U. S. Patent No. 3,701,555) teaches a clamp for securing the reinforcing bars comprising a tubular split sleeve (21) and a contractor (22). The contractor (22) is slide along the longitudinal direction of the split sleeve (21) for firmly gripping the reinforcing bars. Harris also fails to teach the base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer U shaped container

and an inner **W** shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23) and a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming an **M** shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface and a flat top surface and a cover sleeve as an intermediate member for tightly locking the reinforcing bars of the instant invention.

During an interview held on May 28, 2008, the examiner presented a new reference, Goodwin et al. (U. S. Patent No.: 7,007,900) entitled "cable hanger." In the newly cited reference, Goodwin discloses a pair of shell halves 12, 14. (Goodwin; Col. 3, lines 5 ~ 24, Figs. 1 & 2) Further, Goodwin teaches first pair of cantilevered gripping arms or fingers 76a, 78a, with in a recess 52, and second pair of cantilevered gripping arms or fingers 77a, 79a with in a recess 53. (Goodwin; Col. 4, lines 4 ~ 22, Figs. 1 & 2)

As comparing the cited reference with the instant invention, the pairs of shell halves 12, 14 are not same as the **U** shaped container of the instant invention. Instead, those are the pairs of end flanges having trapezoidal shaped shells, which are not deemed same as the **U** shaped containers having a flat bottom surface, two flat lateral surface and two rounded corners between the bottom and lateral surfaces. Further, the plurality pairs of the cantilevered gripping arms or fingers 76a, 78a having the gripping devices in the slotted openings 80 are not same as the grooves of the instant invention.

Accordingly, Goodwin also fails to teach the base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer **U** shaped container with a flat bottom surface, two flat lateral surface and two rounded corners between the bottom and lateral surfaces, and an inner **W** shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23) and a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming an **M** shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface and a flat top surface and a wedge for locking the sleeve of the instant invention.

As discussed so far, the overall features of the present invention are quite different from that of the cited references. Therefore, none of the cited references, Kim, Kunoki, Harris and Goodwin alone or in combination teach or obtain the features of the present

invention.

Furthermore, there is no sensible motivation to combine Kim in view of Kunoki and in further view of Harris or Harris in view of Kunoki and in further view of Kim, and Goodwin because the cited references have different configurations.

However, it must be noted that the inventor, Kim of U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672 is the same sole inventor of the instant invention. Furthermore, the inventor, Kim states that the instant invention does not include the limitations of U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672. Thus, the rejections under the reference, Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) are considered incorrect.

Consequently, the rejections that are made on the basis of wrong references must be immediately withdrawn.

Therefore, the applicant believes the present application is now in allowance condition and early Notice of Allowance is respectively solicited.

Respectfully submitted



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